

3. A check including the amount of \$690.00 is enclosed to cover the Filing Fee.

4. Cancel <sup>✓</sup>claims 2-11 before calculating the Filing Fee.

5. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 02-1540. A duplicate copy of this Request is enclosed for this purpose.

6. Amend the specification by inserting, before the first line:

01' --This is a continuation application of U.S. Serial No. 09/257,002, filed February 25, 1999.--.

7. New drawings are enclosed, eleven (11) sheets, Figs. 1-13.

8. The power of attorney is set forth in the Declaration in the prior application or an associate power of attorney is hereby granted to:

Thomas E. Beall, Jr., Registration No. 22,410  
Jeffrey M. Ketchum, Registration No. 31,174  
Shrinath Malur, Registration No. 34,663  
John R. Mattingly, Registration No. 30,293  
Daniel J. Stanger, Registration No. 32,846  
Gene W. Stockman, Registration No. 21,021.

There is no change in the correspondence address.

Address all future correspondence to:

BEALL LAW OFFICES  
104 East Hume Avenue  
Alexandria, Virginia 22301  
(703) 684-1120.

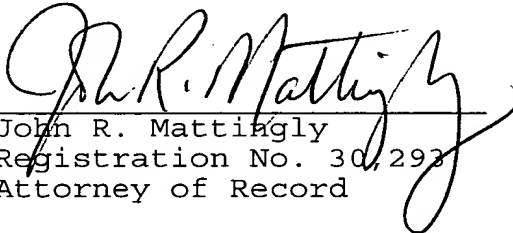
9. The prior application is assigned to Hitachi, Ltd.

10. Priority of the following Japanese patent application is claimed under 35 U.S.C. § 119:

No. 10-129995, filed May 13, 1998.

The certified priority document has been filed in the parent application, Serial No. 09/257,002.

The undersigned hereby declares that no matter contained in the specification, including the claims, and drawings filed in the present continuation application would have been new matter in the prior application Serial No. 09/257,002, as originally filed on February 25, 1999.

  
John R. Mattingly  
Registration No. 30,293  
Attorney of Record

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Date: March 3, 2000